



parental care. Eggs are scattered on the bottom and hatch in about seven days. Iowa walleye populations are enhanced with hatchery-reared fish. Walleye live about ten years.

### **Habitats**

interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie meadows; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; Mississippi River; Missouri River

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **walleye**

*Stizostedion vitreum*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Perciformes
Order:	Percidae

### **Features**

The walleye has teeth on its jaws and the roof of its mouth. The first dorsal fin has dark blotches and the lower lobe of the tail fin is white. The back and sides are yellow or green-brown with dark blotches. The average length of a walleye is 12 to 28 inches. The state record weighed 14 1/2 pounds and was 30 1/2 inches long. Larger individuals have been taken by fisheries personnel netting for brood stock. The name "walleye" comes from the opaque appearance of the eye, which is due to a light-gathering structure.

### **Natural History**

The walleye lives in the open water of lakes and reservoirs and in stream pools. It lives in small groups that swim over a wide area and are active at night, moving to shallow water to feed and returning to deep water in the day. It eats insects and fish. It spawns at night, usually in April. It moves out of large rivers and reservoirs into the shallows of small tributaries or lake shoals to spawn. There is no nest preparation or